17/7/85

Morning.

weather:- cloudy, overcast sky - drizzling lightly ~~for~~ sporadically. ~~scattered~~ ~~spells~~

The ground was damp and ~~the~~ only the dried ~~remnants~~ ~~of~~ stubbles of grass was left. Butea bushes green. In wetter patches particularly in the 'valleys' new shoots of grass beginning to appear. Cultivable plots have been ploughed.

No floricans.

~~bn~~

18/7/85

Morning:-

Weather:- rained briefly in the night. windy slight drizzle, misty till sunrose above. Cloudy overcast sky, which later gave way to a brief burst of sunshine.

Revenue land is noticeably grazed. ~~In contrast~~ ~~to the protected plot~~ The ground is bare and stony. grass stubbles are left but are closely cropped. In contrast the protected plot looks a golden yield a few inches ~~cm~~ high. The grass stubbles are much bigger and the grond is ~~so~~ covered with ~~leav~~ runners and leaves etc all dried.

A greening is seen ~~to be occurring~~ ~~in~~ close to the base of the grass tufts, in wetter patches.

saw eagle owl Bubo bubo

No floricans.

Evening.

weather:- bright sunshine gave way ~~rise~~ to clouds a shower and chilly winds.

Did entomology.

saw jackal who crossed the ridge at a fast walk (jog).

No floricans.

19/7/85 ②

weather - cloudy morning cleared up. sunshine. evening rained briefly. ~~M~~ Early night rained briefly.

grass is sprouting all over. Tiny blades emerging giving a greenish to the golden brown colours. on the tracks in more profusion.

Kallu (chowkidar's son) saw a female florican today near some sugarcane cultivation was in ghont grass near water and flew into the crop. will investigate tomorrow onwards.

In sanctuary no floricans.

20/7/85

Weather :- cloudy morning - cleared - sunny day night ~~star~~ clear & starry.

visited the Agricultural area (Damnod) where the ♀ was reported. Found that the sugar cane was fair tall. Also patches of cultivated guinea grass of varying heights as well as vegetable plots. ~~an~~ cane of varying height & lushness. That florica ~~are~~ are present in the crop fields is quite probable especially if we take into accoun the reports of ♀s nesting in standing cro To sight in these fields is a matter of pure chance as within the cane it is impossible. Evening went into sanctuary much the sa as before except that in the wetter patchs more grass was sprouting in some places hid the ~~brown~~ black earth.

No floricans sighted.

21/7/85

weather: cloudy morning. cleared into a sunny day. Became cloudy late evening.

visited Damnod agricultural areas. The sugarcane crop ~~was~~ ranged from knee deep to over ones head. The cane field from where the ♀ was supposedly flushed

stood above head hieght (2mts) and was very dense inside the field. On the bordering 'bunds' grass grew upto 50 cm high. Also in the area were maize crops (standing short) some vegetable plots and patches of cultivated Guinea (?) grass. Area seemed ideal for a reticent bird to hide in.

Did not see floricans.

Evening in sanctuary. Ground is dry now and the earth ~~is~~ dryer than before some of the tender shoots (grass) are drying at the tips.

No florican.

22/7/85. weather :- dry windy clear drizzled briefly late evening. cloudy night - initially very still and windless.

Did entomology. except for the ~~roads~~ tracks in which where wetter than the other parts greening seem to have come to a standstill. saw ~~bri~~ yong trinket snake (?) and striped keelback. No florican.

23/7/85. weather :- morning cloudy drizzled. cleared into sunny day cloudy and drizzled late evening.

went to Amba. ~~it~~ That Area and en-route to it seem to have had better rains. Many places are quite green with short 1-2 cm (?) grass (some cattle were grazing on the patch)

Amba itself ~~is~~ ~~was~~ is more undulating and had more shrubs (and planted eucalyptus

saplings!) than sailana. ~~Quite~~ Condition of grass areas same as sailana, but seem to have ~~...~~ had more recent showers. No floricans.

23/~~4~~7/85..

weather:- Cloudy morning, sunny during later day, in burst early evening cloudy at end of day.

Sanctuary has lost ~~most~~ lot of the greeness it had acquired.
evening found 43 sarus roosting in Govardhan sagar. No florican.

24/7/85. weather:- cloudy early day. with bursts of sunshine throughout. Drizzled briefly at dusk. 31 sarus at reservoir.
sanctuary:- No improvement. No florican.

25/~~4~~7/85

weather:- cloudy morning:- sunny day - cloudy night rained durin night.

In Sanctuary no improvement.
No florican. At reservoir 34 sarus roostin.

26/7/85 Morning:- Rained quite well in night - drizzled in morning
Around 8.15 a.m flushed one florican male (adult) near the rivulet just after hut. landed about 25 mts away still on slope and moved slowly upward to ridge top foragin, occasionally darting and pecking at / eating somethings. Every now and then standin with head erect and lookin around. was not particularly wary and was most of the time in open foraging. reached top of ridge and after walked down into rivulet up ridge and down rivulet. on far side spent some time on slope foragin. When 2 redwattled-

24/7/85

Sarus

Sailana)Govardhan sagar. Weather:- sunny evenin became cloudy started drizzlin at dusk

Arrived at Plot 4.10 p.m.

Time:-

Observation

16.45 One sarus lands on left of huntin lodge, well above water mark, on slope

(1) of ridge, walks up towards ~~on~~ top.

17.00 Second one comes in flying above the reservoir from the ~~[illegible]~~ south west seemingly saw the first as it curved

(2) downwards at ⊥ to its path and landed near the first. Both moved a little and stood facin opp. direction, on top of ridge.

(Duo - A)

Some Human activity by the water.

5.05 standin about 50 uts apart preenin and then move towards other.

5.15 facing opp directions about 15 uts apart.

5.25. Preenin off and on. Quite windy.

5.30 Preening more active. looking up and around every so often. Stretching wing or ruffling feathers sporadically; Both facing different direction.

5.50. Preenin together and/or alternately.

2 more sarus arrive and walk towards water.

(3+4) 1st sarus join them the second walk follows a little behind. ~~stop at watermark~~ DUO B

5.55. Stop at watermark. A-1st sarus carries on further and stops looking behind at the others. Duo B close together with A-2 some distance behind & A-1 nearer to water.

6.01 when A-2 reaches 'B' it stops and forages closeby. One of B actively preenin/and/ruffling feathers. The other walk forward with A-2 close behind. B-1 which was preening and then standing motionless came to B-2 rapidly. A-2 stops a little behind. B-1 moves forward and comes back standing close to B-2. A-2 about 10 uts away. A-2 from position nearer water constantly looking back at others

6·05 - All together Duo A more apart than Duo B. Also Duo B standing close together 1/2 turned towards each other. Duo A still & standing facing opp. direction. ~~Eventu~~ Preening commences.

6·20 !- A & B take off and ~~leave~~ land near water one of them calling. Another pair C
(5&6) by the water preening one of whom call out loudly and fan wings and raise tail.

6·25 A & B drinking water. C moves towards them ~~standing~~ walking/ foraging. through water.

6·28 2 more pairs arrive a little apart
(7&8) (9&10) from the left towards water

6·30 A 3rd pair comes in flying low land in between
(11&12) the 2 pairs. A Sarus from pair behind calls loudly and fan wings. All 6 move towards first group. Join them.

6·32. ~~Another~~ Another pair more come in flying calling loudly land
(13&14) to right of cluster. straight go and drink water.

6·37 Some movement of Sarus from main group ~~towards~~ away from water. In one pair one bird starts bobbing head and seesawing its body while walking ~~sp~~ ~~interpersed~~ interspersed by fanning out its wings apart but close to body and lifting its tail at the same time bobbing its ~~he~~ head and anterior part. Also stretched its head to the other who also reciprocated by extending neck. (Beak came into contact???). All this was done soundlessly. and while walking. the dancer moving faster than the other. After a minute or two they continue walking sedately.

6·40. A large pair moving towards the water, the larger of which is slightly ahead. Of the 2 pairs by the water one from each move away

rapidly. ~~These two~~ larger 2 stand by water and call loudly throwing their head back a fanning wing and lifting tail.

6.44. Do it again. Only the larger of the two fanned & lifted tail.

6.46. One of the above chases away ~~one~~ one towards the larger group. Out of 14 birds 4 are by the water and the rest loosely standing about 30-40 mts inshore. Of the 4 by water, the larger pair stand close to each other and the smaller a little more apart.

6.49:- A pair lands by the 4 near the water. The largest calls and fans wing/tail while another walks towards them. The newcomer pair retreat into the larger group. In the larger group individuals break into call and wing fanning one after the other.

(15 & 16)

Most birds are preening.

6.53. 2 birds leave main group and start drinking water.

6.55 More birds reach water and start drinking.

7.00 Break up is as :- 4 consisting of 2 larger birds to the left. 4 at main group spot (40 mts inshore) and 8 by water. One duo (probably first) are noticeably apart. There is movement among the birds.

7.06 (17 & 18) 2 more arrive and start drinking water.

7.05. A sarus breaks into call/wing/tail. Soon as this stops another starts.

7.10. 2 more come in. One sarus from shore (19 & 20) does call/wing/tail. Newcomers straight go and drink water.

7.12. 2 sarus jump at each other out-stretched wings and bobbing head, cycling legs at each other. when one gives way the other follow for a step or two bobbing head.

In all 24 sarus all in pairs or 'loose' pair except 2 who are 6 units apart.

(25 & 26) 7.18 2 more arrive flying.

7.19. 3 more arrive flying they land (27 & 28 & 29) close to a loner who join them. The 7.18 pair join them and the loner is seen to come out soon and stand a little apart.

7.20. Started drizzling. - 6 birds moved above the water mark rest same.

last count. 31 sarus.